



# THE MILKEN NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARDS

200 W. Baltimore Street • Baltimore MD 21201 • Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools

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## ***What is the Milken National Educator Awards Program?***

This program, established by Lowell and Michael Milken, recognizes the important contributions of exemplary educators, particularly teachers. Its purpose is to reward these individuals while calling national attention to their important contributions. Each year, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) recommends outstanding educators for these awards. Those who are selected for the award receive a non-restricted cash award of \$25,000. Although teachers are the primary recipients, principals and assistant principals are also eligible. Elementary and secondary school educators are selected in alternating years. Elementary educators will be recommended for 2002.

## ***What are the selection criteria?***

Educators cannot apply for this award themselves; they must be identified and recommended by others. They must be early to mid-career professionals with 5 to 15 years experience in teaching or less than 20 years as administrators. Selection is based on contributions to education, demonstrated leadership, innovative approaches to teaching, and dedication to the field.

## ***What is the selection process?***

Recommended educators are entered in the Maryland State Department of Education's *Talent Bank*. Each year, local school systems are asked to identify worthy teachers and administrators for the Talent Bank. These candidates, along with previously identified talent, are reviewed by a *select panel* established by the State Department of Education and the Milken Family Foundation. The review at the state level considers (1) written material supporting each candidate and (2) oral testimony from peers, parents, community members, and education administrators. Top educator choices are then recommended to the Milken Family Foundation which is responsible for making final decisions. Milken winners are not notified of their selection for this prestigious award until a *surprise* announcement of their selection is made. Such announcements are made at special ceremonies held throughout the state.

## ***How can a teacher, principal or assistant principal be recommended for this award?***

School systems are always searching for recommendations for this and other teacher awards. Contact your local public school system and ask to speak to the Superintendent's assistant responsible for the process of identifying potential Milken honorees. You can also contact the Office of Partnerships, Maryland State Department of Education, at 410-767-0370.

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## ***What do Milken winners receive?***

Milken National Educators win a non-restricted \$25,000 cash award. They are recognized at a state conference and a luncheon banquet. In June of each year, they are special guests at an extravagant education conference held in Century City, California, and hosted by the Milken Foundation. Typically, Hollywood celebrities join nationally renowned corporate executives and elected officials for three days of learning, entertainment, and celebration. Honorees also receive a fourteen-carat gold pin and become part of a state and national network of outstanding educators involved in advising education policy.